

## Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FDRE-00

HEW-06 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 DHA-02 SCA-01 SCSE-00

USIA-15 EB-07 IO-11 SAM-01 OC-05 CCO-00 /074 W

----- 100464

R 070255Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9986

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 0859

E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS: SWEL, GT, OGEN

SUBJ: POOLED PRESS REPORT

1. FOL IS POOLED PRESS REPORT FILED BY  
UPI, ST. PETERSBURG TIMES, NYTIMES, WASH POST AND TIMES  
PICAYUNE. REPEAT TO UPI WASHINGTON, ST. PETERSBURG TIMES,  
WESTERN UNION TELEX 523-413, ST. PETERSBURG,  
AND WASHINGTON POST.  
FROM CORRESPONDENT SIMONS, TELEX RCA 248-344,  
NY TIMES TELEX 62291 NYKTIMES; TELEX 58 4225 FOR TIMES PICAYUNE.

2. A NEW EARTHQUAKE SHOOK A GUATEMALA STILL  
DIGGING OUT FROM ONE IF ITS GREATEST NATIONAL DISASTERS  
TODAY, SENDING INHABITANTS FLEEING IN PANIC INTO  
THE STREET OF THE CAPITAL. OFFICIALLY IT WAS  
AS STRONG AS WEDNESDAY'S PRE DAWN QUAKE.

3. TRAFFIC STOPPED, HORNS HONKED, PEOPLE SAT  
SOBBING ON THE CURBS WHEN THE NEW TREMOR STRUCK  
FOR 20 TO 25 SECONDS AT 12:20 PM. THERE WERE  
NO IMMEDIATE REPORTS OF DAMAGE, BUT SHOPS  
IMMEDIATELY SHUT AND AT LEAST ONE HOTEL,  
THE RITZ CONTINENTAL, WAS VACATED.

4. MEMBERS OF ONE AMERICAN TOUR GROUP--  
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FROM THE MILES FARMS IN OWENSBORO, KY., -- SAID

THEY WANTED TO GO HOME IMMEDIATELY AS THEY RUSHED OUT OF THE HOTEL, UNCERTAIN WHERE TO GO.

5. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SAME GROUP, WHICH ARRIVED UNEXPECTEDLY LAST NIGHT NOT KNOWING OF THE EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE HERE, WERE EN ROUTE TO ANTIGUA, THE FORMER CAPITAL DESTROYED BY AN EARTHQUAKE IN 1776.

6. UIP'S PAUL WYATT WAS IN THE NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS TOWER TRYING TO SEND A DESPATCH WHEN THE NEW TREMOR STRUCK. FIFTY OR SO PEOPLE BEGAN STAMPEDING TOWARDS THE DOORS, ONE MAN CALLING, "CALM, CALM, PLEASE." TELEPHONE OPERATORS FROM THE 4TH FLOOR RAN DOWN THE STAIRWAY: ONE WHO FAINTED HAD TO BE CARRIED.

7. ANOTHER BECAME HYSTERICAL, AND ALL EMPLOYEES WERE SENT HOME, THUS SHUTTING OFF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE TIME BEING.

8. AMBULANCE SIRENS SOUNDED ALL OVER TOWN AND MORE DAMAGE WAS REPORTED TO BUILDINGS ALREADY SHAKEN BY WEDNESDAY'S QUAKE.

9. THE NATIONAL OBSERVATORY IN GUATEMALA CITY SAID FRIDAY'S QUAKE REGISTERED 5.5 ON THE MERCALLI SCALE, WHICH THEY CONVERTED TO 7.2 ON THE RICHTER. REPORTS FROM MEXICO AND THE U.S. SAY IT WAS 5.6 ON THE RICHTER SCALE.

AN AMERICAN SEISMOLOGIST IN GUATEMALA SAID THAT WEDNESDAY'S SHOCK WAS A "TELLURIC" QUAKE, THE EFFECTS OF WHICH TRAVEL ALONG FAULT LINES. FRIDAY'S SHOCK WAS A "COLLAPSE" TYPE, WHICH CONSISTS OF EARTH MASSES COLLAPSING UPON UNDERGROUND CAVITIES. THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY, HE ADDED, COULD EITHER SIGNAL THE END OF A SERIES OF EARTH TREMORS, OR BE THE FIRST IN A NEW ONE.

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11. LARGE LANDSLIDES IN THE SURROUNDING HILLSIDES THREW UP ENORMOUS DUST CLOUDS OVER THE CAPITAL. THE U.S. EMBASSY SENT ITS GUATEMALAN EMPLOYEES HOME TO LOOK AFTER THEIR FAMILIES. PIECES OF PLASTER WERE SCREWED ON THE FLOOR OF THE EMBASSY.

12: HAIMAN JENKINS ST PETE TIMES: MAY  
TRY TO FLY TO MIAMI OR OTHER SPOT U.S. TO FILE  
TONIGHT.RETURNING SAT AM UNLESS COMMUNICATIONS  
REESTABLISHED. LANDREY

MELOY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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